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FACT SHEET

China MFN Decision

I. POLICY DECISIONS

The President today announced the following decisions regarding our policy toward China and Most-Favored-Nation status:

1. Renew Most-Favored-Nation status for China.
2. Delink MFN renewal from human rights issues, other than the statutory requirement of Jackson-Vanik.
3. Impose a ban on the import of Chinese munitions, consisting chiefly of arms and ammunition, projected to total approximately \$200 million in 1994.
4. Maintain the existing Tiananmen sanctions (the denial of participation in the U.S. Trade and Development Assistance Program, OPIC and the U.S.-Asia Environment Partnership Program; continued U.S. opposition to non-basic human needs loans to China by the World Bank and other MDBs; suspension of weapons deliveries; and denial of licenses for dual-use civilian technology and U.S. munition list items).
5. Implement a vigorous, multi-faceted human rights policy to achieve continued progress.

II. THE NEW HUMAN RIGHTS STRATEGY

The new strategy builds upon existing components of U.S. policy, including continuation of Tiananmen economic sanctions and our bilateral human rights dialogue with the Chinese government. The following additional steps will also be taken:

1. Statement of Business Principles. Leaders of the American business community, whose activities in China already contribute to both an economic and political liberalization, will be asked to work with the Administration to develop a voluntary set of principles regarding the activities of American business firms to advance human rights in China.

2. Increased International Broadcasting. The Administration will step up efforts to insure that the Chinese people are fully informed about developments in China and throughout the world. The Voice of America will increase its radio broadcasts to China and will inaugurate television programming via satellite to China which will report on political developments in China. We will inaugurate Radio Free Asia.

B. While there has been some progress in the other specified areas, the Chinese have not achieved "overall significant progress" in these five areas:

1. Begin adhering to the Universal Declaration on Human Rights. During his March trip to Beijing, Secretary Christopher pressed the Chinese Government for a public statement of adherence to the Universal Declaration on Human Rights. Foreign Minister Qian Qichen made such a public statement on April 6 indicating that China will abide by the Declaration. At the same time, Chinese practices have often been inconsistent with the Universal Declaration on Human Rights.

2. Releasing/providing an acceptable accounting for political and religious prisoners. China has released two of the leading Tiananmen Square dissidents, Wang Juntao and Chen Ziming, as well as 6 religious dissidents and several prominent Tibetans. Although we lack precise statistics, at least 19 others from lists we presented the Chinese have been released from detention.

On the accounting side, China has provided limited data on 235 prisoners to Secretary Christopher, as well as additional data on 107 Tibetans this past week (this is the first time that China has ever provided data on Tibetan prisoners).

In contrast to these positive developments, political detentions continue, many prominent dissidents, including Wei Jingsheng, have not been released, and the data provided on prisoners is incomplete.

3. Humane treatment of prisoners/prison access. The U.S. Government has sought to implement this criterion by persuading the Chinese Government to allow the International Committee of the Red Cross to visit prisoners. Following U.S. representations, Beijing agreed to "expert talks" about prisoner visits with the ICRC earlier this year. Two sessions have been held, but no agreement has been reached yet, and no prisoner visits have taken place.

4. Protecting the distinctive heritage and culture of Tibet. In order to implement this criterion, the Administration has urged the resumption of talks between Chinese and the Dalai Lama or his representatives, which were broken off without progress in 1992. In April, the Dalai Lama reiterated his position of being willing to leave independence off the agenda in talks with Chinese leaders. To date, China has not agreed to resume the talks.

5. Permitting international radio and TV broadcasting. The Administration has sought to end Chinese jamming through signal overlaps of Voice of America Chinese-language broadcasting. China denies it jams these signals, but VOA claims a 40% signal loss. In March, Beijing agreed to Secretary Christopher's request to receive technical data, which was provided in April. Last week, Beijing invited a VOA/USIS technical delegation to Beijing for further discussions. Thus far, the jamming continues.